

Minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee

The regular monthly meeting of the SSSCC was held on Thursday, December 6, 2012, in the 2nd floor conference room of the Wallace State Office building in Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Appointed SSCC Members in Attendance:

SSCC Members:

Kelly Tobin, Chair, SSCC Member, New Market
Jean Eells, SSCC Member, Webster City
Dale Farnham, SSCC Member, Ames
Jeani Leyda, SSCC Member, Bloomfield
Sherman Lundy, SSCC Member, Cedar Falls
Vance Hjelm, SSCC Member, Lake Park
Tim Palmer, SSCC Member, Truro

Staff in Attendance:

Jim Gillespie, DSC, Division Director
Vince Sitzmann, DSC, Bureau Chief
Wayne Peterson, DSC, Urban Conservationist
Tarrita Spicer, DSC, Administrative Assistant, Note Taker

Ex Officio Members and Advisors in Attendance:

Steve Hopkins, Department of Natural Resources
Jay Mar, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Clare Lindahl, Conservation Districts of Iowa

Others in Attendance:

Matt Helmers, Iowa State University
Sorrel Brown, Iowa State University

Absent:

John Lawrence, Iowa State University
Todd Coffelt, DSC, Bureau Chief

- 2012 – 75** Lundy moved to amend the agenda to include “News Coverage,” under New Business. Leyda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2012 – 76** Lundy moved to approve “the agenda as amended.” Leyda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2012 – 77** Eells moved to “approve the minutes of the November 1st meeting.” Lundy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Matt Helmers - presentation on Gilmore City research (hardcopy of presentation with file)

Vince Sitzmann left the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Bureau Chief Reports

- Field Services – Sitzmann (hardcopy of report with file)
 - Field Reps currently accepting applications for SWCD summer interns until Wednesday, Dec. 19th.

- 35 SWCDs in the process of updating their soil loss limits.
- DSC entering into a new agreement with Matt Helmers from ISU to implement the STRIPs (Science-Based Trials with Row Crops and Prairie Strips) program.
- Mines & Minerals – Coffelt (hardcopy of report with file)
 - Mineral renewal notices sent out around Thanksgiving and due at the end of December.
- Water Resources – Coffelt (hardcopy of report with file)
 - Look for a CREP newsletter in the near future.
 - Watershed Development and Planning Assistance Grant: RFP released Oct. 4th due Thursday, Nov. 15th.
 - Watershed Improvement Review Board: RFP issued Oct. 9th due Friday, Dec. 14th.

Director's Report – Gillespie (hardcopy of report with file)

- Northey presented budget to the Governor December 6th.
- Planning committee in final stages of organizing Partnership Day 2013.
- Governor Brandstad, Secretary Northey, DNR Director Chuch Gipp and Director ANR Extension ISU John Lawrence released the Nutrient Reduction Strategy released on November 19th and open for comment until January 4, 2013. Comments can be made at www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu.
- Secretary Northey will be scheduling a meeting with you and CDI to discuss his budget proposal to the Governor.
- Discussion on AG Drainage Well closure program.

Partner Reports

- Natural Resource Conservation Service – Mar
 - Shared NRCS-Iowa At-a-glance November 2012 newsletter
 - Developing a Soil Health program.
 - Discussed the development of several Enhancing programs:
 - Mississippi River Basin
 - Driftless Area Initiative
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins (hardcopy of report with file)
 - DNR providing input on NRCS draft 590 Standard, by request to ensure consistency with updated DNR standards and regulations related to nutrients.
 - DNR adds educational kiosks with water quality messages at 11 State parks.
- Conservation Districts of Iowa – Lindahl (hardcopy of report with file)
 - Partnership Day toolkit; includes letter, brochure FY14 Budget Request/talking points and power point.
 - Conducting a district survey on payroll which will also include questions on programs and other topics that will assist in CDI to improving/developing.
 - Shared CDI December 2012 newsletter.
 - Reviewed 2013 Spring Regional meeting schedule.
- Iowa State Extension – Sorrel Brown (hardcopy of report with file)
 - Conservation Systems to Sustain Soil Productivity and Quality Symposium.
 - 13 Crop Advantage Series meetings reaching 2200 farmers and crop advisors; meetings scheduled for January, 2013.
 - 2012 Iowa Land Value Survey release December 11th.

- Leopold Center – (provided by Jennifer Steffens; hardcopy of report with file)
 - The advisory board met October 26th for a Board Retreat.
 - The board will consider reviews and comments for the 16 grant proposals that were received at the December meeting and award letters will be sent out by the end of January 2013.

Old Business

- Soil & Water Conservation Week: April 29th – May 3rd, 2013
- Research & Demonstration Grant Update: all contracts have been received and signed with the exception of one that is in final review status with accounting.

New Business

- SSCC New Member – Tim Palmer
- DSC-QST Annual Report – Amber Kenan
- Soil Loss Limit tentative approval -****List by county**

12/6/2012

Appanoose	O'Brien
Buena Vista	Plymouth
Dickinson	Polk
Ida	East Pott
Jones	West Pott
Louisa	Poweshiek
Marshall	Taylor
Monona	Union
Montgomery	

2012 – 78 Lundy moved to approve “all counties listed.” Palmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Summer Tour-
 - Monday, June 10th – Wednesday, June 12th, in Fort Dodge Area.
 - Gypsum Mining Tour, visit Bob Lynch AG Drainage Well.
 - Travel to Fort Dodge Monday evening, Tuesday all day tour, Joint/SSCC meeting Wednesday morning.
- Election of SSCC Chair and Vice Chair

2012 – 79 Lundy moved to approve “Kelly Tobin to a second term as the SSCC Chair.” Hjelm seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2012 – 80 Lundy moved to approve “Jean Eells to a second term as the SSCC Vice Chair.” Hjelm seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- SSCC Terms expiring
 - Vance Hjelm and Jeani Leyda’s terms expire in 2013. Terms are open for application to the Governor’s office.
- Nutrient Reduction Strategy update – see memo from Dustin Vande Hoef (hardcopy with file)

Subcommittee Reports

- Planning –

2012 – 81 Lundy moved to approve “CDI Resolution #6 – Improve Iowa code wording for conservation taxation,” presented by the Planning Subcommittee. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Soil, Water & Mineral –

2012 – 82 Lundy moved to approve “CDI Resolution #3 – Allow REAP – practices funds to be used with cost share,” presented by the Soil, Water and Minerals Subcommittee. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2012 – 83 Lundy moved to approve “CDI Resolution #8 – REAP funds for urban practices,” presented by the Soil, Water and Minerals Subcommittee. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2012 – 84 Lundy moved to approve “CDI Resolution #9 – SWCD’s partner with government for cost share for urban stormwater practices,” presented by the Soil, Water and Minerals Subcommittee. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2012 – 85 Lundy moved to approve “CDI Resolution #10 – Include urban stormwater as a water quality problem,” presented by the Soil, Water and Minerals Subcommittee. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- District Operations –

2012 – 86 Eells moved to deny support of “CDI Resolution #2 – Change Initial IFIP allocation methods,” presented by the District Operations Subcommittee. Farnham seconded. Motion carried. Vote taken:
Jean Eells – Yea Vance Hjelm – Yea Tim Palmer – Nay Sherm Lundy - Yea
Jeani Leyda – Yea Kelly Tobin – Yea Dale Farnham - Yea

Vacancies in the Office of SWCD Commissioner

- Vacancy:

- Bremer SWCD – Vacancy due to the write in Josh Beyer declining the position. The district would like to appoint LaVerne Leistikow based on a failure to elect in the General Election held on November 6, 2012.

2012 – 87 Lundy moved to approve “the appointment of LaVerne Leistikow to fill the vacancy as a Bremer SWCD commissioner.” Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCC Member Reports

- Sherm discussed seeking out opportunities to get involved in local Watershed Management Authority's.
- Dale – attended ICM Conference in Ames
- Vance – Shared Farm Bureau Resolutions, attended IA Farm Bureau Annual meeting, IA Drainage District meeting in Fort Dodge.
- Kelly – plans to meet with Page and Adams county districts in the next 60 days.
- Jeani – attended an Iowa Learning Farms event in Bloomfield and Cover Crops Management meeting.
- Jean – will attend the Cover Crops conference at Prairie Meadows Dec. 13th-14th and shared Women, Food and Ag Network publication.

Future Meetings:

January 22nd – SSCC/CDI Joint meeting 8:30 – 9:30am
Partnership Day 10:30 – 2:00pm
SSCC 3:00 – 5:00pm

Spring Regionals:

Feb. 26th – Reg. 2, Buena Vista 10-2pm
Reg. 1, Monona 4-8pm
Feb. 27th – Reg. 5, Cass 10-2pm
Reg. 8, Union 4-8pm
Mar. 11th -Reg. 9, Ottumwa 10-2pm
Reg. 7, Johnson 4-8pm
Mar. 12th - Reg. 4, Delaware 10-2pm
Reg. 3, Howard 4-8pm
Mar. 13th – Reg. 6, Boone 10-2pm

March 4 & 5 – 2012 Iowa Water Conference, Scheman Continuing Ed. Bldg., Room TBA, Ames,
10:00 a.m. on March 4, all day on March 5
Rooms may be reserved under: IDALS-DSC
Quality Inn & Suites Starlite
Located: 2601 East 13th St, Ames, Iowa 50010

April 28th – May 5th, 2013 – 2013 Soil & Water Conservation Week

2012 – 88 Lundy moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.